Further, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has issued notices to M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. to pay Rs. 263 crores against 517 notices. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has approached Delhi High Court and an interim stay has been granted against disconnection of Points of Interconnection. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., has so far paid approximately Rs. 100 crores against this demand as per the orders of the Supreme Court, Rs. 182.71 crores is payable before 31.12.2004.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. and so far approximately Rs. 67 crores has been paid against the claim raised. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has approached Delhi High Court in this case.

Separate telecom sector for Bhadohi

*240. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhadohi, forming an independent revenue district is still under the jurisdiction of Telecom District Varanasi;

(b) whether representations are pending with the Centre, pleading for a separate telecom district status for Bhadohi, in view of it's being main center for carpet manufacturing and export in India;

(c) whether Bhadohi generates large telecom revenue through large number of ISD call traffic and is expected to be declared as Special Economic Zone; and

(d) if so, whether in view of the present status as international export center, Government would consider forming a separate telecom district for Bhadohi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Bhadohi revenue district is part of Varanasi Telecom District/Secondary Switching Area (SSA).

(b) Representations for a separate Telecom District status for Bhadohi had been received in past but formation of the same was not found feasible due to administrative, operational and technical reasons.

(c) For Bhadohi revenue district, ISD call units are approximately 4% of

total call units only. Further, formation and management of telecom districts are not based on any economic zone criteria.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Donation for ARIs

1435. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have closed the donation for the Agro industries;

(b) whether the funds released by Government are not enough to run these industries; and

(c) if so, the details about the Agro industries and the release of funds in the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) while donations are not given by the Government for setting up of agro and rural industries, the Government has been implementing through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) to promote and assist setting up of village industries, including agro industries. The REGP is a credit-linked subsidy (margin money assistance) programme with the following principal features:

(i) Implementing agencies: Public sector Banks, regional rural banks, private sector Banks approved by the State/Union Territory (UT) Khadi and Village Industry (KVI) Boards and co-operative Banks approved by the State/UT KVI Boards.

(ii) Eligible beneficiaries: Individual entrepreneurs, self-help groups, institutions, co-operative societies, trusts and public limited companies owned by the State/Central Governments.

(iii) Pattern of Government's financial assistance: The details of margin money assistance given by the Government are as in the table below: